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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

25X1A 60614

COUNTRY Syria

DATE: 25X1A

SUBJECT Syrian Government Policy in the
Jebel Druze

INFO.

DISTRIBUTION: March 1947

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ORIGIN

SUPPLEMENT

- 25X1X 1. The Syrian Government is well aware of the danger to Syrian unity and independent progress which is presented by the dissident elements in the Jebel Druze. Leadership of these elements is recognized to lie with the Atrash family, hereditary lords of most of the Jebel, in whose hands most of the present political power there is held. In the face of this threat and of its own military impotence in the Jebel, the Syrian Government has developed a policy of undermining and isolating the dissident elements in that region.
2. This is primarily a policy of sowing dissention in the Jebel by promoting, through government agents and government subsidies, a party hostile to the Atrash clan. Atrash ability to make capital of alleged neglect of the Jebel is to be nullified by an extensive program of public works. The prestige and authority of the Atrash family are being undermined in every possible way, and non-Atrash candidates are being groomed for the coming elections. The ability of the Atrash to react is being nullified by a systematic diminishing of the military effectives in the Jebel. The present forces of army and gendarmerie are consistently refused motorized transport and arms other than rifles. The supply of arms confiscated by the Druzes from the French is being steadily reduced by purchase from its individual owners.
3. Trans-Jordanian, and by inference British, influence in the Jebel Druze, and the campaign to elect pro-Greater Syria candidates in the coming elections, based upon cultivation of the two ruling Druze houses of Atrash and Amir. This is facilitated by the deep-seated rancor between President Quwwatli of Syria and Sultan Pasha Atrash, which goes back to the divided leadership of the 1925-27 revolt. Sultan Pasha was then identified with 'Abd al-Rahman Shahbandar and Quwwatli with the opposition. This rancor is kept alive by 'Uqli Qutamai, Christian deputy from Jebel Druze and intimate friend of Sultan Pasha. Qutamai has the role of confidential agent of the Atrash family and is their go-between with the government.

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Comment: It should be noted that the past connections of Sultan Pasha Atrash and King 'Abdallah with 'Abd-al-Rahman Shahbandar are carried on in their present relations with the Hizb al-Ahrar (Liberal Party), which is composed largely of elements of the old Shahbandar Party.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 13 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2003

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Extracted by F.I.R.

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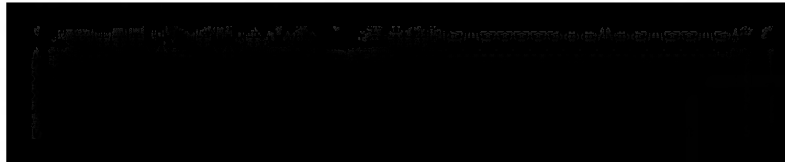
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4. Should the dissension created in the Jebel lead to open conflict among the Druses, this conflict is to be kept within the Jebel, and the Syrian Government would not intervene. To this end the elements surrounding the Jebel are being encouraged as much as possible in their traditional hostility to the Druses. The inhabitants of the Hauran, and the Beduin tribes settled north and east of the Jebel, are being quietly helped to arm themselves, and the government has, since September, installed a strong Nationalist and man of confidence, 'Abd al-Karim A'idi, as Muhafiz of the Hauran.
5. Similarly, the possibility of active interference by King 'Abdallah of Trans-Jordan is being countered by the promotion of an anti-Hashimite party in Trans-Jordan, prepared to make trouble, should 'Abdallah move. If all else should fail, and the secession of the Jebel Druze be attempted, the matter would be presented at the Security Council before there would be a resort to arms, according to the government's plan.

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(b) Metallurgy and Concentration:

Chief : F. M. Loskutov
 Asst. Chiefs: D. A. Babich
 I. A. Strigin
 Secretary : E. N. Padalka
 Members : 47 of whom 13 are ore concentration specialists, 22 metallurgists of heavy non-ferrous metals, 6 of light, 2 for rare and one (1) for noble metals, and one specialist in gas purification.

(c) Metal-Working, Alloying, and Powder Metallurgy:

Chief : I. L. Perlin
 Asst. Chiefs: G. A. Meerson
 M. V. Shveitsor
 Secretary : I. A. Mendelov
 Members : 3 founders, 17 specialists in working metals under pressure (drop-forging?), 7 hard-alloys metallurgists, 5 for secondary metals and 2 electro-platers.

(d) Mechanics, Energetics, and Transport:

Chief : A. A. Kiselev
 Asst. Chiefs: B. Ya. Zemelman
 I. S. Kutsenko
 Secretary : E. G. Meerson
 Members : 28 persons including 14 mechanics, 8 energetics experts, 5 transport specialists and 1 miner.

(e) Economics, Works and Capital Construction:

Chief : I. Ya. Kholmyanski
 Asst. Chiefs: N. K. Egorov
 E. S. Shteinberg
 Secretary : M. F. Purits
 Members : 23 economists, 11 works specialists and 4 construction engineers.

6. "The general direction and control of the work of the section is under the Assistant-Chiefs of the Technical Council, A. A. Gailit, A. A. Amiraslanov, and R. L. Veller."

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